No. 13,987.

WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1897-TWELVE PAGES.

TWO CENTS.

Latest Reports From Dawson Say There is Plenty of Food.

STORIES OF RICH GOLD STRIKES

Estimate of Next Year's Output Placed at Twenty Millions.

TEMPERATURE BELOW ZERO

SEATTLE, Wash., December 29 .- E. Barrington, one of the passengers on the Alki, speaking upon the situation of the miners in the Klondike, said: "There is no need of any one worrying over their friends starving. Of course, provisions are not plentiful, and supplies should be taken in the spring, after which all the provisions in the country will be exhausted."

Speaking of the rush to file claims, Mr. Barrington said: "For some time before I left the commissioner's office was unable to accommodate the miners, and the men stood in line for days, with the mercury 40 degrees below zero, in order to file claims. The biggest sensation in the way of a strike was No. 43 on Hunker. It paid \$45 to the pan. If it had not been for the exedus to Fort Yuken one hundred claims would have been worked on Bonanzo, Eldorado and Hunker creeks this winter."

Floated by on the Ice.

S. W. Foote said a great many people went past Dawson City in boats with the floating ice, unable to make a landing. Many people are living in tents in Dawson, though the temperature is away below zero. Good strikes have been made on Lucky

roe to describe a nave been made on Lucky creek, a tributary of All Gold. Sulphur creek is also turning out finely.

"On the way we encountered good weather nearly all the time. We left Dawson November 21. Part of the way we threw off our coats and went in shirt sleeves and with here bards. It was only 15 below. with bare hands. It was only 15 below zero then. At the Chilkoot summit we encountered a fearful snowstorm and were lost for a time. It lasted all the way from the head of Linderman to the summit. One man went ahead with a stick, poking it into the snow to find the hard path to walk

Provisions Rule High. "Beef and mutton at Dawson are being

sold at \$1 to \$1.50 per pound, while bacon and beans brought \$1 to \$1.25 per pound. There was plenty of sugar at 30 cents per

"The claims are all taken within a radius of forty-five to fifty miles of Dawson."

J. D. Barhes states that the Alaska Commercial Company and the North American Transportation and Trading Company have declined to receive any more gold for safekeeping, as their safes are full.

T. H Ma'lory believes the output next season will be between fifteen and twenty millions, while J. J. McKay estimates it at

MAJ. HANDY SERIOUSLY ILL. Suffering From Nervous Prostration

at an Augusta, Ga., Hotel. AUGUSTA, Ga., December 29.-Moses P. to the Paris exposition of 1900, is seriously ill at the Bon Air Hotel, a winter resort in the fashionable suburban district of this city. Major Handy, accompanied by Lieutenant A. S. Baker, U. S. N., aid to the special commissioner, together with Mrs. Handy and Mrs. Baker, came to Augusta on December 17 suffering from nervous prestration. He has been steadily confined

to his room ever since, with no signs of immediate improvement. NEW CABINET OFFICER WANTED. Miners' Association to Advocate a

Secretary of Mining. SAN FRANCISCO, December 29 .-- At the suggestion of W. R. Ralston, who is now in New York, Tierey L. Ford of the California Miners' Association will prepare resolutions in favor of the creation of the cabinet office of secretary of the mines and mining in the President's cabinet for adoption by the American Institute of Mining Engineers and Federation of Miners listed Francis G. Newlands of Nevada and Representative Loud in the couse.

CHICAGO AT NEW YORK'S "WAKE." Carload of Windy City Notables to Visit Gotham.

CHICAGO, December 29 .- Mayor Harrison has received replies from all the clubs from whom he requested the name of a representative to attend the exercises in Grater New York incident to the beginning of the new municipality next Saturday. The delegation is complete and will leave for the east tonight at 11:30 c'clock over the Michigan Central in a special car. The delegation is composed of prominent business men and officials.

VALUABLE ASPHALT DEPOSITS.

Colorado Owners Negotiating Funds for Development.

DENVER, Col., December 29.-The owners of some of the undeveloped asphalt beds on the borders of the Uncompaghre Indian reservation, residing in this city are negotiating with the Title Guarantee and Trust Company of Chicago, with a view to securing money to develop the deposits. According to the seventeenth annual report of the United States geological survey, the area in which gilsonite occurs covers a considerable territory in the reservation and extends fifteen miles over the state line into Colorado. There are seven distinct veins which vary from one to eight feet in thickness, and it is estimated that their total ness, and it is estimated that their total contents will amount to 23,744,528 tons.

The same report quotes the price of this material in Chicago at \$40 to \$60 per ton gress value, which would make the estimated contents of the seven veins worth

CUBA'S NEW GOVERNMENT.

officers Will Be Sworn in on January 1.

HAVANA, December 29.—Captain General Blanco has issued a decree announcing the lines upon which the home rule government is established. The governor general and executive assume charge of foreign affairs, war and the navy, and, with five autonomical secretaries of supreme justice and the interior (finance), public works, posts and telegraphs, and agriculture and com with the president of this council. the president of this council, consti-tuting the responsible government.

The new officials will take the oath of office at 9 a.m. on January 1, and will im-mediately assume charge of their offices.

Mrs. Booth Still Improving. NEW YORK, December 29 .-- Mrs. Ballington Booth, who has been suffering with aneurism, is now steadily improving. It will, however, be some time before she will be able to leave the hospital.

NO ONE NEED STARVE A SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT RIGHTS IN THE EAST

Comment on Secretary Gage's Offer and Its Rejection.

The Real Question as to the President's Attitude on the Currency.

The discussion of the "resignation" of The Oriental Question as Viewed Secretary Gage is regarded by men in Congress as of equal importance, whether the resignation was actually tendered and declined, or merely suggested tentatively. The important question involved in the suggestion of resignation on the part of DIVIDING THE TERRITORY Secretary Gage is not whether Mr. Gage is o remain at the head of the Treasury Department. The question is whether Mr. Gage's position as to financial policy is satisfactory to the administration. Anything that answers that question is regardthing that answers that question is regarded as of great consequence. Whatever occurred between the President and Secretary Gage with relation to the latter's tenure of office referred entirely to this question, and the fact that Mr. Gage is to remain in the cabinet is regarded as fixing the attitude of the administration as to the financial policy. the financial policy.

A Choice of Terms. It is a matter of the choice of terms whether it may be said that Mr. Gage tendered his resignation. The most common construction of Mr. Gage's course would be that it was a "tender," though it may be regarded by the President as only a "suggestion" of resignation. What is known to be a fact is that Mr. Gage told the President that if his (Mr. Gage's) attitude and utterances on the financial question caused the President any embarrassment, and this could be relieved by Mr. Gage's resignation, he would resign. The occasion for this course on the part of Mr. Gage was the criticism that has been provoked from cer-tain republicans by Mr. Gage's statement that his object was to commit the country more thoroughly to the gold standard.

Upon the President's reply depended whether Mr. Gage would remain in the cabinet. Had the President intimated that he disapproved the financial views of the Secretary the latter would have present-fully in a formal way his resignation and ed, in a formal way, his resignation and have retired from the cabinet. But the President gave no such intimation, and the resignation, tendered in a spirit of friendliness and self-sacrifice, was not and as he does not muddy and befoul the wais not expected to be formally presented. As well as can be learned, Mr. Gage had no reason to doubt that he was in accord with the President, and a feeling of deli-cacy prompted him, in view of the public criticism to which he had been subjected, to give the President an opportunity to relieve himself from all embarrassment, if any were felt. It was simply one method, and the appropriate one, of inquiring of the President whether the course of the Secretary met with his approval. If it did there was no occasion for a resigna

Who Understands the President.

The President's reply confirmed the belief us the part of the Secretary that he was not misrepresenting the administration. The incident furnishes an answer to the question whether it is Mr. Gage or Senator Wolcott, Senator Chandler and others of like trend of thought who understands the President.

It also demonstrates that Mr. Gage, if he found himself in disagreement with the President, would not change his own views. but would retire and permit the President remaining is therefore sufficient proof that there is no substantial disagreement be-tween them. When Secretary Carlisle disagreed with President Cleveland he follow ed a different course. Becoming convinced that Mr. Cleveland was right, he conformed his policy to the President's views be no reason for either the Secretary or the President to make any change of sition in order to agree.

ARMY AND NAVY.

Whereabouts of the Warships-Late Orders and Transfers.

The cruiser Detroit has arrived at Por Antonio from Port au Prince. The gunboat Petrel sailed from Hong Kong this morning for Canton.

Commander B. S. Richards has been granted three months' sick leave when discharged from the Mare Island Hospital. Captain A. H. McCormick has been detached from the armor factory board. Navy Department, and ordered to command the battle ship Oregon.

Captain A. S. Barker has been detached from the Oregon and granted two months' Lieutenant J. B. Bernadou has been or

iered to command the torpedo boat Win-Ensign W. Bagley has been ordered to the Winslow.

Acting Carpenter J. A. Barton has been ordered to the New York navy yard.

Second Lieutenant Frederick W. Lewis, 22d Infantry, is granted one month and fifteen days' leave of absence. The following transfers are made in the 9th Cavalry: First Lieutenant Guy H. Preston, from Troop C to Troop D; First Lieutenant George White, from Troop D to

Personal Mention.

Ensign T. Washington is at the Army and Navy Club. Naval Constructor A. W. Stahl of the

Norfolk navy yard is in the city on duty. He is at the Army and Navy Club. Lieut. Thomas H. Stevens of the Norfolk navy yard is at the Army and Navy Club. Passed Assistant Engineer Charles T Nagle of Brooklyn is in the city on leave of

absence. He is at the Ebbitt. Capt. W. C. Gorgas of the medical department was at the War Department this morning under orders to Fort Barrancas, Fla. He is at the Ebbitt. Capt. W. S. Schuyler, 5th Cavalry, is in city on leave of absence. He is at the

detropolitan Club. Mr. Saunders Garland will entertain Mr. Herbert N. Fell of Wilmington, Del., at a dinner party this week at Chamberlin's. Former Senator Warner Miller of Herkier, N. Y., is among today's arrivals at

Mr. Partridge, United States consul general at Tangier, Morocco, was at the State Department today arranging for his de-parture for his new post of duty. He has apparently fully recovered from his recent severe spell of sickness.

Local Pensions.

An original pension of \$8 per month has been granted to Charles J. Meyers of the District of Columbia. William S. Gaino of this city has been granted an increase in pension from \$6 to \$12 per month.

Robbery at Fort Mouroe.

The Post Office Department has received information of the arrest on Christmas day of George W. Nixon, a soldler stationed at Fort Monroe, for breaking into the post office at that place and robbing the office. The case was heard before United States Commissioner Waller and the defendant held in \$1,000 bonds.

Ex-Secretary Smith Here. Mr. Smith, former Secretary of the Interior under Fresident Cleveland, arrived in Washington today, and is at the Riggs. He said he came on business, and he declined

Interests Involved Which Cannot Be Ignored.

IN CASE OF PARTITION OF CHINA

in Diplomatic Circles.

The more the Chinese situation is examined by men in Congress capable of grasping the subject, the more convinced they become that this government has interests involved which cannot safely be ignored. The contention between the foreign powers for a territorial roothold has for its object the control of the oriental commerce. This country has treaty rights which will undoubtedly be respected so long as the treaties exist, but if China is dismembered and divided among the powers those treaty rights will no longer exist, unless we have taken steps in advance of the catastrophe to China to secure their continuance by the powers in control, or unless we fight to regain them after they have been lost. If China is not dismembered, but is placed under the domination of one or more of the foreign powers, treaties may be abrogated by the direction of the controlling powers.
It is not believed that this country can safely rely upon the voluntary generosity of the governments contending for commercial supremacy. Such philanthropy is not expected between nations. It is believed that the safety of our interests can be insured only by an early demand that nothing be done by the powers with re-spect to China which does not include perfurther in how the territory may be divided or which of the contending powers has ad-

as ne does not muddy and befoul the water which flows from it through our farm.

An eminent authority on international affairs said today that a situation might develop when the United States would be called upon to go much further than protect American interests at the treaty norts in China. This situation would come ports in China. This situation would come, he said, if the scramble for Chinese territory went to the extent of the extinc-tion of China and the complete absorption of the old empire by foreign nations. Such was the apparent drift of the present move-ment, he said, and if it became a reality, then a condition would arise similar to the extermination of Poland. Poland had established a precedent in international affairs, he said, and following that precedent if China was to be absorbed then it was a question which the United States in common with all the nations of the world must take cognizance of. Until this final movement occurred, however, it was plain that the United States had no interest in the fencing of European nations and Japan for coaling stations and ports on

the Asiatic coast. May Be Brought Up in Congress. It has practically been decided now that resolution on the subject will be up in Congress, unless some word from the administration is received which will show

it to be unnecessary. Speaking on the subject, a prominent member of the Senate said to a Star reporter that there was nothing inconsisten with our policy of non-interference in af-fairs remote from this continent in our insisting that our commercial interests and existing treaty rights shall be regarded and protected in whatever great international policies are rut into effect. He said that he would favor giving notice to the powers concerned that we would resist the carrying out of any policy in China which would deprive us of our commercial privileges, deprive us of our commercial privileges, though we would in no way participate in the grab for territory.

A Japanese Diplomat's View.

In the meantime, however, the diplomati are much concerned in the movements of their respective governments. A leading Japanese diplomat said today: "I do not look at the question as involving the partition of China, and no event has occurred thus far to indicate that China is about to be divided among the powers.

"The only tangible fact is that Germany has occupied Kalo Chau bay and Russia has a fleet at Port Arthur. But Germany's for an indignity to German missionaries just as she enforced indemnity from Hay ti. Beyond this Germany may seek to es-tablish a naval station at Kaio Chau and thus have a naval base of operations on the Pacific. But that does not involve the taking of any considerable portion of Chinese territory, and it is yet to be shown that Germany will take more than a coast port and such land immediately adjacen as to give the port proper facilities. If i comes to taking territory, the course o China must not be overlooked. While China is weak from a military and naval standpoint, yet she has an entrmous number of men ready to take the field, while the entire ferce of Germans at Kaio Chau cannot exceed a few thousand men. Even weak nation is strong in defending its

own territory. There are reports that Japan would aid "There are reports that Japan would aid China in an extremity, but there is nothing in that. Japan doubtless will act alone if there is any reason for acting at all. Thus far, however, I know of no steps that Japan has taken or contemplates toward taking part in the controversy. My impression is that she will remain an independent and neutral observer. Her position will be much stronger by such a policy than it would be by an alliance at the outset. As an observer, if she sees that the partition an observer, if she sees that the partition of China is at hand, doubtless she would have some part to take, but for the pres-ent there is no evidence that such an emer-gency is near."

. An Old Story.

Another Japanese diplomat said: "All the powers have known for the last year that a secret treaty was made last year between Russia and China by which Russia was to have the right to winter her fleet at Port Arthur. For that reason the presence of the Russian fleet at Port Arthur does not lead other nations to fear that Russia has begun a movement of ter-ritorial aggression on China. On the con-trary, Russia and China are nearer together than any other two nations in the present contest, and if China is to get any outside relief it will come from Russia. It is quite plain from recent events that Russia has not got ready yet to have China partitioned, and until Russia is ready for partitioned, and until Russia is ready for that step it will not occur. Moreover, there is a misapprehension as to the Russian occupation of Port Arthur. It is not a land occupation, but is merely a quarter-ing of the Russian fleet in the outer har-bor, Vladivostock being leabound, without tion with the shore."

Reports Exaggerated. A Chinese diplomat said: "The alleged fficial statements coming from the Chines legation have been unwarranted, as the le gation has not received a word from Pekin since the first notice was sent that a Gernan force had landed at Kalo Chau without previous notice to the Chinese government. It is felt, however, that many of the reports as to the seriousness of the situation, particularly of those from Shanghai, are overdrawn. Judging from the press dispatches

there appears to be little doubt that the original purpose of Germany to enforce an indemnity has now developed into securing a naval station at Kaio Chau and possibly more territory, on the ground that Germany is entitled to a return for her services during the Chna-Japan war. But it appears to be overlooked that Germany has received distinct returns for those services in the granting of large concessions, which, at the time of the grant, were considered as most valuable to Germany. As to the Russian fleet at Port Arthur, that is not a surprise. A Russian fleet (was wintered at a Chinese port last year, with the consent of China, as it involved no sacrifice of territory. What the outcome will be is difficult to say, but it is felt that an amicable settlement will be made, possibly by the granting of the coast stations, but without any serious dismemberment of territory."

View of German Officials.

The German officials here take the view that there are but two actual steps on the part of Germany, namely, the occupation of Kalo Chau bay and the dispatch of Prince Henry's fleet to Chinese waters. Beyond this, they say, all is conjecture as o what Germany will do, and they convey to what Germany will do, and they convey the idea that these conjectures as to the absorption of territory are unwarranted by any of the actual circumstances which have thus far developed. That Prince Henry will extend his field of operations beyond Chinese waters and will embrace Samoa and Hawaii is dismissed as absurd, although reports of such a movement have been current.

No Word at the British Embassy. The British embassy has not received a word from the foreign office on the eastern situation, but in common with other diplomats the officials view the situation as the most interesting one now occupying attention. There is a general disposition to credit the late reports that a considerable British fleet is at Port Hamilton, off Corea, and that a large number of Japanese ships are in the same vicinity. There are seventeen British ships on the Asiatic station, and a good part of them appear to be centering about Corea. This, however, is said to be apart from the general question of Chinese partition and to relate only to the displacement of an English official who has had an influential position in the adminishad an influential position in the adminis tration of Corean affairs.

France Not Interested.

French diplomats say that France is not ikely to take any part in a struggle for Chinese territory, if that eventuality comes, as France has already secured most extensive possessions in southeastern China, notably, French Tonquin, It was M. Patenotre, the late French ambassador at Washington, who carried through the negotiations with Li Hung Chang by which France secured this foothold on Asiatic soil. Beyond the sending of the French cruiser Jean Bart to Chinese waters, it i said that the Chinese situation does not appear to have aroused France, and the dispatch of this cruiser is said to have no more significance than the sending of the United States ship Raleigh, which is now on her way to the Chinese station.

NEAR TO A DEATH PLUNGE

'F. F. V." Train on C. and D. Narrowly Escapes Awful Wreck.

Shunted Onto a Short Spur Track While at Full Speed-, . Near Ravensworth.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star. RICHMOND, Va., December 29.-At Ravensworth, ten miles south of Alexandria. last night, the Chesapeake and Ohio "F. F. V." train, from Washington to Cincinnati, shortly before midnight, while running at full speed, had a very narrow escape from destruction. The train suddenly struck a spur track, at the end of which is a tall embankment. The engineer at once discovered the dangerous situation and applied his brakes and reversed the engine basely in time to stop the train before it went over the embankment.

There are strong reasons to believe tha train robbers were at work on the scene and had tampered with the switch. Twelve n inutes before the "F. F. V." train reached the spur track the Washington and southwestern vestibule train over the Southern, en route to Atlanta, had ver the same track and the switch was then all right. Engineers have orders to then all right. Engineers have orders to be particularly careful at that point, as a train was w.ecked there some time ago.

The engineer of the "F. F. V." train noticed the switch lights carefully, and they were all right and indicating that the way was clear. He was greatly astonished when the train rushed upon the spur track. There was not a moment to lose, and by almost a miracle the train and large nur ber of passengers were saved. track is only long enough for half a dozen The theory is now being worked on train robbers tampered with the switch between the time the Southern vestibuled train passed and the "F. F.

FIRE AT PORT AU PRINCE.

Eight Hundred Houses Destroyed-Earthquake Shock This Morning. PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti, December 29. -At 11 o'clock last night a fire, which assumed considerable proportions on account of lack of water to supply the pumps, broke out and destroyed 800 houses, in cluding a number of warehouses, a hotel, the Church of St. Joseph and its parson age. About 3,000 people were rendered

This morning at 6:40 o'clock there wa an earthquake, the disturbances running from north to south, lasting half a minut and causing slight cracks in the earth There were no accidents but the populac was greatly alarmed.

GLADSTONE IS 88 YEARS OLD.

"Grand Old Man" in Meccapt of Many Congratulations. LONDON, December 29 .- This being the eighty-eighth birthday of the Right Honorable Wm. E. Gladstone, the usual congratulations were sent to Hawarden and Cannes, where Mr. Gladstone is improving, though still suffering from neuralgia.

EMPEROR NOW SUPREME.

Francis Joseph Will Raise Taxes by Imperial Becree.

VIENNA, December 29.-An imperial de cree has been gazetted authorizing the government during the prorogation of arliment to levy taxes and provide for the state expenditure from January 1 to

Mrs. Baker's Public Bequests. PHILADELPHIA, Pa., December 29.—By he will of Mrs. Henrictta R. Fales Baker the will of Mrs. Henrietta R. Fales Baker \$2,000,000 is bequeathed to the Pennsylvania Hospital. The will was probated today, and the bequest is made contingent upon the death of the son and daighter of the testatrix without issue. The estate is estimated as over \$2,000,000. Other institutions to whom bequests are made are the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art and the Zoological Gardens.

NEW YORK, December 28.—W. A. Brady will today post \$2,500 with Al Smith to bind a match between Corbett and Fitzsimmons.

President McKinley Expects a Prompt Response to His Appeal.

WHAT IS SAID AT STATE DEPARTMENT

Contributions From Throughout the Country Looked For.

VIEWS OF ESTRADA PALMA

President McKinley now believes that the plan for relief for the Cubans will be a success. He does not think that the American people will allow such an undertaking to become a failure.

Few subscriptions have been received through the White House since yesterday, ard, as already stated, not many are expected through that source.

The President warmly approves of the

efforts being put forth to raise funds and expresses the hope that all of these will result in large additions to the money which has been sent. It is thought at the White House that the subscriptions will not begin to roll in before tomorrow or next day. After that it is believed that they will continue in a steady stream until the total sum sent to Gen. Lee will be satisfying to all Americans as illustrating the eady response which the people of the United States give to appeals for aid for those in need.
It is said at the State Department today

that no information has been received there of additional subscriptions to the fund for the relief of the suffering people of Cuba, but that this fact occasions no surprise, inasmuch as the executive appeal, issued by the Secretary of State at the in-stance of the President, expressly sug-gested that all contributions of whatever character-money, food, clothing, medi-cine, etc.-be forwarded direct to Consul

General Lee at Havana.

That plan was adopted in order that there should be as little delay as possible in their delivery and distribution to the people in distress. Consequently there may have been many contributions, large and small send direct to the consul genand small, sent direct to the consul gen-eral at Havana without the knowledge of the department up to this time.

As stated in yesterday's Star, the au-thorities suggest that the leading news-papers in the principal cities be made the agencies for the collection of contributions for the distressed Cubans, and that they also attend to their prompt delivery to Consul General Lee without reference to the State Department. It is believed that the people generally throughout the country will contribute with their usual liberality, particularly in a case like that of Cuba, in which they have always displayed the greatest interest

ONLY PEACE CAN END DISTRESS.

Palma's View of the Proposed Relief of Cubans. NEW YORK, December 29 .- "Governor General Blanco's acceptance of President McKinley's request that the American people be permitted to relieve the sufferings of the concentrados in Cuba is tantamount to acceptance of the offer of intervention by the United States in the conflict so long in progress between the people of Cuba and the Spanish government," said Tomas Estrada Palma, chief of the Cuban junta in this city, to an Associated

Press reporter today.
"As the administration believes that peace in Cuba can be restored only by po-litical intervention it cannot reject the favorable opportunity that thus presents itself to intervene for the purpose of ending the war in Cuba," continued Dr. Pal-"The deplorable condition of the concentrados has been caused by the crue warfare waged by Spain, and the government, finding itself unable to relieve the situation, has applied to the United States for aid. President McKinley must see by now that there is no chance for peace to be established in Cuba without intervention, and living up to his word, as given in his previous messages, must intervene and Spain cannot rationally and consistently reject such intervention."

Send Food, but No Money.

Coming down to the relief plan itself, Dr. Palma said: "If the American people are willing to help the concentrados they should send no money. That would go to feed the greedy maws of the Spanish merchants and help Spain to continue its warfare. Food, clothing and the like, but no money-that would be the best plan to follow out. Money will benefit the Spanish

proposition as a way out of a difficult position. He knows that it would require millions of dollar to permanently relieve the concentrados, under the present conditions. Suppose that it takes but ten cents a day to aid a man, how long could one continue giving ten cents if the man is given no opportunity to help himself. Immured in the big cities, the concentra-dos are helpless and will continue to be helpless until they can get out of the

"The Spanish government is incapable of showing to the United States that these defenseless people will have their condi-tion in any way improved by the relief plan. The United States can accomplish very little during the progress of the war.

Peace and Independence. "The only way to relieve the concentrados, and, in fact, all Cubans, is to stop this distress by the introduction of peace and independence. With peace restored the concentrados will be able to return to their farms and their residences. We have the money, the tools and the materials that will set these people right at work again. To keep them in the cities cripples them and makes it necessary to feed them like so many invalids.
"Let the American people know that the

best plan is to intervene for peace. They should intervene immediately. "Spain is willing that Americans should aid the concentrados by the present plan because it will relieve Spain of responsi-bility for a calamity that it has brought about. Spain is trying to shake off the ignominy of Weylerism in Cuba, but it cannot succeed. It is necessary that the world should know the results of that work in Cuba, and the world is learning fast."

Cuban Subscriptions. Evening Star Newspaper Company..\$100.00

S. B..... 1.00 An Expected Appointment. One of the appointments, which is ex-

pected to be made shortly is that of Mr. Fred P. Metzger of Kansas as chief clerk of the general land office. Mr. Metzger is now filling the combined office of acting chief clerk, private secretary and receiving clerk. His long experience in the Interior Department!n various capacities has made m an authority on questions arising in

Secretary Long in New York. ecretary and Mrs. Long have gone to New York city to spend the remainder of the holidays. It is said that Secretary Long will return to this city next Monday. Mean-

RELIEF OF CUBANS TO PLAY A WAITING GAME

Ohio Democrats Watching the Fight Against Senator Hanna.

They Will Not Take Part Unless His Defeat is Sure-Usual Conflicting Claims.

Special Disparch to The Evening Star. COLUMBUS, Ohio, December 29.-The democratic managers have decided to await the developments of the organization of the two branches of the legislature before entering into an agreement with the anti-Hanna republicans in the senatorial contest. They expect this to develop the strength of the opposition among the republicans to Senator Hanna.

The leaders are skeptical as to the claims made by Mr. Kurtz. They doubt that he has the votes he claims, and that he can prevent the election of Mr. Hanna. They do not care to "make monkeys of themselves," as one of them put it today, by forming an alliance with Kurtz in a visionary scheme which has no promise of success. If Mr. Kurtz has sufficient votes to break the Hanna slates in the organization they say he has enough to block the election of Senator Hanna.

Democrats Pulling Together.

The democrat leaders will confine their efforts to marshaling their forces preparaory to a deal with the anti-Hanna republicans if such a combination promises success. They have induced every democratic member of the legislature to agree to sup-

member of the legislature to agree to support an anti-Hanna republican if that course is deemed wise. Otherwise they will vote for Jno. R. McLean for senator.

Kurtz is positive that Hanna cannot be elected. From other sources it is learned that eleven republicans are pledged not to vote for Hanna. In spite of pledges, however, it is believed that these men will be compelled by their constituents to support Senator Hanna as the party nominee. It is a strange fact that nearly all the anti-Hanna members represent strong Hanna counties and districts.

Kurtz refuses to give out a list of the men who are pledged against Hanna, but they are supposed to be Senators Burke of Cleveland and Shepard of Preble, Representatives Eromley and Mason of Cleveland, Jones of Stark, Smith of Delaware, Boison and Morrel of Dayton, Snyder of Xenia, Redkey of Highland, Taylor of Mahoning and Rutan of Carroll.

Dick Will Not Talk of Defeat.

Maj. Dick, who has opened Hanna headquarters here, will not admit that there is danger of the senator losing a single republican vote. He will not discuss Kurtz's attack, which he says is a personal matter with Mr. Kurtz. The Foraker republicans from all over the state are gathering here, however, and the hotels are fast filling up with interested spectators, politicians and No Truth in Detective Story.

secret detectives upon the movements of Kurtz's friends in the interest of Senator Hanna are undoubtedly fiction. No person

has been identified as such here, and there are enough of the senator's friends on hand

to keep careful watch upon the Kurtz peo-ple if they wish to watch them.

POSTMASTER RAPIER OUSTED.

The Department Settles an Interesting and Complicated Case. The post office officials have at last succeeded in ousting Postmaster Rapier at Mobile and installing P. D. Barker in the place. This is one of the most interesting and complicated cases with which the department has had to deal, and establishes a precedent which will smooth away all

future difficulties. Postmaster Rapier was appointed in December, 1894, and, following the established custom, was supposed to be good for four years' service. Last October, however, the President removed Col. Rapier and named Col. Rapier declined to get out and based his refusal, first, on the fact that his suc-

cessor had not been confirmed by the Senate, and, second, that he had received no official notice of the change. It turns out not to have been the practice of the department to notify a postmaster of his removal, that unpleasant duty remaining for the successor when he presented his credentials. The claim was made at first that the removal of Col. Rapier was for political

reasons, and that it was not in accord with served his full term of four years. Col. Rapier remained obdurate, notwithstand-ing the threats of the department and the pleadings of several inspectors who, together with the second assistant postmas-ter general, visited the office and demanded Col. Rapier to vacate. Postmaster General Gary was kept informed as to the move hat were being made and consulted the local district attorney of Mobilé. The re-sult of the conference was the issuance of orders to the post office inspectors to take possession of the office and swear in Mr. Barker. This was done yesterday. Colonel Rapier immediately sued out a

writ of injunction against his being inter ered with until the Senate had confirmed Mr. Barker. Judge Toulmin, however, refused to grant the injunction, and the ne It was learned at the department this afternoon that the removal of Colonel Rapier was not for political reasons, but because of non-attention to the duties of the office The post office inspectors had reported the facts and the department had acted, as it loes in numerous cases. It was further

THE TREASURY ENCOURAGED.

postmasters to serve out their term. The

stated that there was no intention

salary of the position is \$3,100.

Biggest Customs Receipts Since th Dingley Law Went Into Effect. The customs receipts today reached 735,567, over \$100,000 increase over any day since the Dingley law went into op eration. The treasury is much encouraged by the receipts, which are steadily climbing. The total receipts this month are \$10,480,349, against \$9,749,742 for the same period a year ago. The receipts so far are a million dollars heavier than for No vember, and carry out the predictions of an increase. There are two more days in this month, and the total receipts will be about \$11,000,000. They will probably show an increase over December a year ag of from \$700,000 to \$1,000,000. For Novem ber last the receipts under the Dingley law were about \$100,000 behind the receipts for the same month of the year under the Wilson law.

Festival This Evening. The Vermont Avenue Christian Church Sunday school will give its annual Christmas festival this evening. The service will be under the direction of Mr. H. L. Shep-ard, the church chorister, and Mr. Rober Balderson, the superintendent.

The Winslow in Commission. The torpedo boat Winslow was put in on at Norfolk today, under comand of Lieut. J. B. Bernardou, who was inspector of the boat while she was building at Baltimore. She will join the torpedo boat flotills on the Florida coast.

The Evening Star is the only afternoon paper in Washington that receives the dispatches of the Associated Press. It is therefore the only one in which the reader can find the complete news of the world, directly transmitted by telegraph, up to the moment of going to press.

THE CUBANS' STUPOR

No Interest Felt in the Progress of Autonomy.

SIGNS OF INTERMITTENT INTEREST

Many Conflicting Stories as to Colonel Ruiz's Death.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

HAVANA, Cuba, December 25, 1897.

(Copyright, 1897, by Chas, M. Pepper.) pecial Correspondence of The Evening Star.

Progress can be reported on the part of the authorities in preparing for autonomy. The "junta del censo," or electoral board has been constituted. The government proper, the real administrative body, is to be in working order January 1. So far as appointments and other details of executive power can be said to carry out the decrees, this is being done. Before long it may be possible to announce that Cuba is under autonomy, paper autonomy, perhaps, yet the system in operation, as far as any practical system can be in operation when the bayonet must open the way for its acceptance by the people for whom it is intended. The autonomists who were in Europe and the United States, it is said, are coming back to lend their aid and support. They are not coming in flocks or droves, because not enough of them went abread to form a flock. But, though not numerous, they may be able to give the government encouragement for the future. If they could wave a magic wand and bring the insurgent autonomists back from the

significant. Stupor of the People.

hills and the forests the return of these

leaders from abroad would be an event of

importance. When they come bearing a

withered olive branch their return is not

The step taken toward putting autonomy into effect again draws attention to the deadened state of the public mind. It is a political phenomenon, the like of which I have never heard. The subject may become as tiresome and as monotonous as the starvation of the country people, yet it cannot be ignored in seeking to give an intelligent understanding of this new epoch in Spain's history as a colonial power. One might attribute it to a stupor caused by the completeness of the change, but a stupor wears off when the shock is over. An ordinary drowsiness yields to a brisk and healthful breeze. Something more than either drowsiness or stupor is here. The condition is recognized, though contrary The reports of espionage by government opinions are given as to the cause and the prospect of an awakening that will send the blood leaping through the veins and bring fresh political life to Cuba. The supporters of the government make the Christmas season the text. They talk, in the style of devotional spirits, of sadness and hope and the promise of the future. Friend foe of Spain or of the insurrection may wish that Cuba and Spain's soldiers it Cuba may never know another Christmas season such as this one. The exhortations to awaken to a hopeful future are not universal. The torpor forbids such effort. But there is another view. "Spain in Cuba is asleep," says a powerful journal, and then, with almost sinister emphasis, the question

is asked, "Is it the sleep of death?" Signs of Intermittent Life.

Probably the sleep has not reached that stage. Signs of intermittent life are sometimes shown. The discussion which followed the convention of the conservative party had animation enough to last for several days, especially as General Weyler's intention to demand a personal explanation from President McKinley followed on its heels. Possibly the violence with which the erators in that convention resented what they called the "calumnies and falsehoods" of the President may have had something to do with Weyler's demand for satisfaction. But inasmuch as the intransigentes were not ready to go to war with the United States right away their belligerency could not keep the Havana public from falling back into slumber. It might be supposed that the death of Col. Ruiz would nflame the loyal portion of the inhabitants to the point where they would not cool. This has not happened It created a sensation at first because Col. Ruiz was so well known and enjoyed so large a degree of personal popularity. If the impression is less lasting and less productive of results in Cuba than elsewhere it may be because the circumstances are better understood. The volunteers and the "bombecos. or armed firemen, with which organizations Col. Ruiz was identified, blazed out with fury for a moment and called for vengeance. But they did not demand to be enisted in the regular troops and go out to fight. Their resentment against General Rlanco was almost as strong as their re-

sentment against the insurgents. Conflicting Stories of Ruis's Beath

I shall not give a personal opinion on Ruiz's death without stating the facts on which that opinion would be based, and the purpose of this letter is not to state private views, but to record the influence of current events on autonomy and the insurrection. Whether Colonel Ruiz deserved a better fate than that which was meted out to Major Andre in the revolutionary war may not be so difficult of determination. Two sources of information are available. One is from the insurgent accounts; the other is from Consul General Lee, whose opportunity of learning the facts was as good as outside agency could be. The Spanish military authorities were for several days absolutely without means of learning. Their knowledge of Ruiz's death was received from the American consulate. On two different nights two widely different versions were made up and given to the newspaper correspondents. The story of a presentado who claims to have been raising vegetables inside the insurgent lines has finally been adopted as the official version. Reason exists to believe that he does know something of the case. Reason is equally strong for the belief that the story he tells is not the true one. So the people of Havana discredit him and seek their news from the American consulate and from the insurgent reports. These circumstances help to explain the torpidity into which the public so quickly falls.

This relapse into torpor has not been without effort on the part of the authorities to prevent it. The autonomista committees in the various provinces have con-demned the killing of Ruis with every manifestation of sincere horror. Various individuals have done the same. But the